

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC WORK SESSION

OCTOBER 10, 2012

WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM)

845 PARK AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:00 P.M.

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

PUBLIC SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

The Public Work Session of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at the William A. Briggs Reed Conference Room with the following members present: Ms. Iannazzi, Mrs. Ruggieri, Mr. Bloom, Mr. Lombardi, Mrs. Culhane, and Mr. Traficante. Mrs. McFarland was absent with cause. Attorney Andrew Henneous was also present with the Administrative members.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Lombardi and seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws –

1. PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel:

- a. (Discussion of Certified Administrator A's Settlement Agreement)**

2. PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation:

- a. (Contract Negotiations' Update – Secretaries)**

b. (Contract Negotiations – Preparation for Collective Bargaining & Legal Advice

Re: Transportation Employees)

c. (Supreme Court Appeal of Administrator B)

d. (Volunteer Policy Update)

e. (Consideration of legal options regarding status of aid to education

appropriation and legal advice relating to same)

Call to Order – Public Session was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present.

Adjourn to Public Work Session

a. Suzanne Arena & Ken Filarski – “Bamboo Project”

At this time, Mrs. Arena and Mr. Filarski explained the Bamboo Project to the committee and the administration (Please see hand-out on this project; on file in the Superintendent’s Office). Mrs. Ruggieri confirmed that there will be no costs associated to the District. Mr. Auth also spoke on this project; working with this program at Cranston Area Career & Technical Center. Mr. Filarski also noted that working with this project, students can study in a number of different ways. They can study as developing a business plan for what you do with bamboo when it’s grown; it could be a side project such as “what are the properties of bamboo; what are a good species of

bamboo". There are over 2400 of species of bamboo. It could work in Science and as a mathematics project. One of their collaborative partners is the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Arena added that the vision was to utilize the schools; have them do a lot of the business planning; the research; getting involved with parents, teachers and mentoring. It's the entire community.

Mrs. Lundsten also pointed out that she has explained to Mr. Filarski and Mrs. Arena that we can not take on a new project unless it was cost-free to us. There was a discussion regarding raising the money for this project if the City and the Schools were on board. It was noted that there are many grants out there to work on.

Mr. Auth noted that the two programs he immediately thought of for this program would be the Entrepreneurship Program and the Aquaculture Program. When they presented it to him, he thinks it does hold ways with possibly integrating it with Honors' Level students in one of those programs; working as an extra project within the curriculum. They are always looking for an Internship Agreement to the Career & Tech. Center especially with the Entrepreneurship Program. He noted it would have to be a one-on-one internship with a mentor. It is difficult to base an entire curriculum on this but they could do small aspects here and there.

Mr. Lombardi asked Mr. Balducci if he could look into the revenue generating aspect of this and our inability to generate revenue or the

ability to generate revenue. That will come in with the City and the negotiations with the City. Also, Mr. Lombardi asked how many Career & Tech. students Mr. Filarski envisions involving running this program. Mr. Filarski answered that if only one student was interested they would work with one student. Mr. Lombardi stated that they should start with the Mayor/City Council at this time. Mrs. Ruggieri also suggested that if this does happen, we should extend it outside of the schools so that it becomes a community project because of all of the other issues that surround us putting in this type of project, at this point, that the success of this would benefit the entire community if it was offered as an entire community project. A discussion ensued regarding the following:

- A grant that was not used; not sure if any of it came out of the open spaced money
- Start with a commitment with the City/Mayor/City Council
- This is the type of out-of-the-box collaborative thing that we need in Cranston and it's really great that it encompasses so many different aspects from curriculum to financial literacy in building a business plan to getting the business community involved. We definitely need that type of collaboration in Cranston.
- It is something that the School Committee is willing to entertain if they can get the other side of the City's support.
- Our climate is conducive for growing bamboo
- Harvesting was discussed also.
- Also spoke to the Green Building Council and some other people

who are interested in helping and making this go through.

- Mr. Boyle from the Cranston Chamber of Commerce is also on board.**
- When they do talk to the City, some kind of arrangement/agreement will have to be made between the two groups.**
- Issues are:**
 - a. If liability policy applies**
 - b. Our ability to collect revenue/what the City is expecting in return as well.**

Mr. Traficante, in echoing Mr. Lombardi's suggestion, repeated that they have to get the Mayor and the City Council on board before doing anything.

Mrs. Arena noted that she and Mr. Filarski have attended, with Mr. Lupino from City Council, most of the comprehensive plans' meetings and Mr. Lupino is very interested in environment.

Dr. Nancy Sullivan – Re: Curriculum Review for K-6 Physical Education

(Please see copy of this curriculum on file in the Superintendent's office)

At this time, Dr. Sullivan introduced the newly developed Grade K-6 PE curriculum binders. Dr. Sullivan thanked the committee for giving her this time to present this to them. She introduced Donna Jones, who was very helpful in putting this together and will answer any

questions the committee may have in regards to this curriculum. Other members of this team were named and Dr. Sullivan pointed out that these people really were self volunteers to do this work in terms of collaborating across the district. At one point there were 18 elementary schools; now there are 17, but every 19 teachers involved across the City had to be brought together to agree on this curriculum. It also took a number of years. Dr. Sullivan added that the previous PE curriculum was written 20 years ago. This curriculum was developed over a 5 year period but it didn't really start until 2009 when Dr. Lundsten jumpstarted the process of development of this new PE curriculum for K-6. This has been through the process of a number of reviews by our Curriculum Advisory Board. Dr. Sullivan noted that this is a district wide curriculum review and approval board so that it's purpose is to make sure that students have equity and access across the district so that what they're teaching in one school, is being taught in other schools and that all the curriculum are aligned to the district's Strategic Goals to the district's philosophy, purposes and priorities. Also, the curriculum is as current as it can be in terms of how curriculum instruction is perceived. The transformation in schools has been phenomenal. At this time, Dr. Sullivan introduced the curriculum to the members of the committee and the administration.

At the conclusion of this presentation, Dr. Lundsten concurred what Dr. Sullivan said; that these people have worked tirelessly on this. What she particularly likes about this is that if they get a brand new

teacher who walks in, they know exactly what our expectations are and it's so specific that she is feeling really good about it. The work isn't done; it will continue as we try to include children's health and wellness.

Mr. Traficante stated that he realizes the reason why they revisited K-6; is it going to be a necessity to also revisit the middle and high school PE curriculum? Dr. Sullivan noted that that will be forthcoming also. She explained this issue to the committee.

Mr. Lombardi asked because of the complexity of the details that are involved in the curriculum itself, in terms of the Athletic Director's assessment of the 19 or so...is that going to be problematic in terms of his being able to assess his expectations of the instructors. Dr. Lundsten answered that she doesn't think this will be a problem, noting that this is a guide and our new Athletic Director evaluator will support our teachers because they will have the same evaluation tool.

Dr. Sullivan, at this time, wanted to thank Mrs. Nota-Masse for freeing up Title II money to allow this and she's been very supportive of the process; meeting with people and moving things forward on a regular basis.

Mrs. Culhane added that it's so nice to see this much thought going into our children's physical health because that leads to good

emotional health too. So, as a parent she is really excited to share this with other parents because it's good to know that gym isn't just gym. There's a purpose and a standard for it to lead to the overall health of our children. The entire committee stated that this was well done.

Mrs. Ruggieri noted that at some point she may want to have Dr. Sullivan and her group come to a Wellness Committee meeting and present this curriculum because one of the goals that they have for this year based on some new standards that were set, was to make sure they are including the phys. ed. department, etc. in the wellness discussion because they are not just talking about food; they are talking about the whole realm of this.

Dr. Sullivan noted that the binders are available in her office for additional review.

Dr. Sullivan also added that they have been talking about the next steps for the entire faculty and she will be meeting with Mrs. Nota-Masse about that.

Mr. Bloom added that this was a tremendous amount of work that went into this curriculum. He noted that it would be valuable to be communicating to the parents; he doesn't think that the parents know the level of work that goes into creating a program like this and sustaining it within the district. This shows how good we are at what we do and the professionalism that is taken in order to achieve these

things. It would be great if this could end up on the website. It was noted that the plan is to add to the website upon final approval. Mr. Bloom noted that this is the type of promotion that we need to be talking about in terms of the public and the professionalism of the education. He reiterated that it is an outstanding job.

This will be approved by the school committee by law; we can send copies to RIDE also. It is really important as this review process continues; they come in and they will be looking at all of the curriculum and Dr. Sullivan wants everyone to know that they will be receiving a lot of curriculum that has been in process over the last couple of years.

Organizational Chart

(On line on cpsed.net site and also on file in the Superintendent's office)

At this time, Dr. Lundsten explained the outline of the 2012-2013 Organizational Chart. Dr. Lundsten noted that this is the standard form and template that we've used in the past. (See chart) Dr. Lundsten also noted that the position of Executive Director of Educational Programs is currently posted and will remain posted until the 19th then interviews will be scheduled. The committee to do the interviews has been set up. Hopefully, the following week, will be the second interviews coming to Dr. Lundsten and then she will make her recommendation on the November Agenda.

Dr. Lundsten – Update on travels and Strategic Plan (notification of upcoming meetings)

Dr. Lundsten, at this time, reported to the committee on what she has been up to since they appointed her.

Since she has been appointed she has been out visiting different schools since school started. Dr. Lundsten has been to all the buildings at least three times so far this year. Please see information below:

- Dr. Lundsten attended Open Houses – She was very happy with the number of parents that attended.**
- Each month it is her goal to go out to the schools and talk to the principals and staff around the same theme**
- September – more general questions; what is their goals for the year; how do they expect to achieve them; what barriers would be in their way and what can central office do to support them. Dr. Lundsten spoke on this for a while.**
- Looking at the new accountability system.**
- Dr. Lundsten's theme for October (appointments are already scheduled) is Math. It is an area that we find challenging. She has questions set up; they've been sent out to the staff; she wants to know what they are doing; what data they are collecting; how they are using the data; and what it is we can support them with; where they**

see strengths and weaknesses and some commonalities with that. This is her theme for Math for October.

- Each month Dr. Lundsten intends to have a certain area to concentrate on to go out to speak to them; She is not having them come here; She is going to the schools because some of those days they will be walking through the classrooms; and her goal for November and December will be going to classrooms and sit in Math classes and see what it is they're doing. Where are they being successful and what their challenges are.

- She has not visited during Common Planning time yet; however, she thinks that down the road she would like to do that. She will take that; however, and put it in her plan.

- Dr. Lundsten has been generally pleased with what she has seen during the visits. Ms. Iannazzi accompanied her before school had opened; she was extremely excited by what she saw. Ms. Iannazzi agreed that the staff as a whole had a very challenging couple of years and she was happy to see the enthusiasm they have about what the school year will bring and the changes that are happening.

- Dr. Lundsten reported that she has been working on Strategic Planning. She has put dates out for visits across the City for evening; afternoon and early a.m. sessions; the first session was last week at William Hall Library and Dr. Lundsten was very thankful to the people who were there. She noted that there was a wonderful conversation about education and what the parents want for their children in the next three years. The parents were honest, forthcoming and it was a great evening. Everyone was engaged and

respectful. Mr. Bloom reiterated that Dr. Lundsten did a great job and that the parents were very involved. Dr. Lundsten reviewed the constructive criticism.

- After the election, Dr. Lundsten will sit down with all the elected and appointed officials and take a look at what we're doing and see if they can give us any feed back.
- She will hopefully present the Strategic Plan for adoption in June.
- Mr. Lombardi noted that it is extraordinary and unfortunate that there was such a low turnout last night but he thinks it's extraordinary that we have a Superintendent going on tour and taking the show on the road and actually interacting with parents; her presentation was extraordinary. It's wonderful to go on to their home turf and to discuss what the expectations are; what you expect of them; what you expect the school system to be in 3-5 years.
- Mrs. Ruggieri reported that there were two PTO meetings last night but today she went out and spread the word and people had said that they are planning on coming to the Western Hills meeting so they are expecting a better turn out at that meeting.
- Dr. Lundsten reported that she is starting to collect vision statements from people and they will review the common themes; they will develop a new or revised Vision Statement and they will put it out to public comment. From there they will actually look at the goals; the administrators will be heavily involved in this process because by going out and looking at the Math data, they should be ready to go forward; Dr. Lundsten is doing a goal for the Math and also they will look at English Language Arts and whatever else they

need to work on. They have to prioritize in the next three years, what they need to do.

- In regards to communication, that was one of the parts of the entry plan; the website is giving us nice favorable results; she has been doing a weekly update to the School Committee. Dr. Lundsten noted that if any of the committee members want to see anything else in the update, to please contact her and she would include it.

- In regards to collaboration and building community partnerships, the PTO's were all invited last week (presidents); they did one session on Thursday evening and another session on Friday morning. They both went well.

- Dr. Lundsten's next project is to reach out to the PTO's who did not come and share with them what was discussed. We agreed that we would meet at least quarterly so their next meeting is the second Friday in January.

- Mr. Traficante was present at these meetings and noted that he was glad that they brought up the CEAB issue. This was a chance to give some constructive criticism as to what their role is in the future about supporting education. CEAB decided that they would go back to the PTO's and ask them the three most important issues that they would like to have CEAB explore this year for feed-back.

- CEAB has not made a decision on their leadership at this time.

- Dr. Lundsten reported that she met with Mr. Boyle at a Cancer fundraiser from the Chamber of Commerce and she has an appointment scheduled to see him. She will be meeting with the JROTC; she has yet to meet with officials from RIDE but that's on her

list this month.

- **Dr. Lundsten also noted that a parent suggested to her that she should see if there is a person who works with realtors; Ms. Iannazzi noted that Michelle Caprio does this kind of work. Dr. Lundsten stated that they are some of the first people, when families move in, who hear about the school system; so what is it we can do to help them and also to make sure they give accurate information about the schools.**
- **Mr. Traficante suggested that the Superintendent also meet with the Rotary Club – Cindy Fogarty.**
- **Dr. Lundsten also reported that you've heard from the Curriculum pieces they've been working on; you didn't hear anything about Science; Dr. Lundsten is the one who is running with the Science. Tomorrow and Friday, Dr. Lundsten will be in Indianapolis representing State on The Next Generation of Science Standards. These will probably be adopted in Rhode Island in the spring time. Dr. Lundsten spoke on this. This has huge implications in Science for us; and in Math and technology. This will be at the K-12 level.**

**Jeannine Nota-Masse – Update on Financial Literacy Curriculum
(Please see hand-out on file in the Superintendent's Office)**

Over the summer there was a Resolution No. 12-7-02:

Whereas in this difficult economy, high school students are struggling to find ways to afford college, and

Whereas a national survey conducted by the Jump Start Coalition in 2008 found that only 48.4% of 12th grade students passed a personal

financial survey, and

Whereas there now exists several vehicles to provide free financial literacy curriculum to our students by Jump Start RI Coalition National Financial.....

Be it Resolved, that the Central Administration prepare a plan for review by the School Committee to include Financial Literacy in Cranston Public Schools curriculum.

Mrs. Nota-Masse reported that we do have financial literacy courses in both of our high schools. They look a little different in each of our high schools because the Career & Tech Center houses the Cranston West version of the courses but Cranston East also has its own Financial Literacy curriculum. What she prepared tonight with the help of the Program Supervisor for your review is a description of some of the course taking patterns of the children at this point; also some PD that the teachers take. While Mr. Auth is an administrator now, he was a teacher in the business department. Mr. Auth and Dr. Sullivan can also speak on our curriculum. At this time, Mrs. Nota-Masse walked through the packet with the committee members, noting that this is an extremely thorough curriculum.

Ms. Iannazzi stated that she sponsored the above resolution and when she sponsored it, what she had in mind was something a little bit larger in school. It's great that we have this course but she personally would not have signed up for it when she was in high school. Ms. Iannazzi noted that she and Dr. Lundsten did have a

meeting with Education in Action about some of the great programs that they offer for 6th grades and middle school students. Perhaps there's more that can be explored. At this time, Mrs. Nota-Masse made note that we have a Program Supervisor for Technology who is David Regine who has brought to Mrs. Nota-Masse and Dr. Sullivan...he would like courses designed for children that explore "how to use your portfolio, etc", all the things that we expect students to do but we really don't have living in any course. If we can develop an introductory course that all freshman and/or sophomores will roll through, that will provide us room in the Business Department. A lengthy discussion ensued in regards to what they would like to see.

Mr. Auth also spoke on this issue.

Being in the classroom last year in this subject area, I really do think this is important. We all have the life experience; we're employed; we own homes; kids don't know these things. There are all of these things that kids don't know. It's sad. They want to do something for a career, they have no idea what that career even takes. They have no idea if they're making \$50,000, what type of home they can afford. Forget about balancing the checkbook. They should know a little about investing and just how to survive from day-to-day; how to budget. They need these basic skills. The other thing I wanted to add was that Kristen Rojas who does one of the professional

development programs; I've seen her in the classroom numerous times and I think that's one of the strong aspects of this program is bringing people in; she's from the Pawtucket Credit Union; so they're not just listening to their teachers, even though teachers are the strength of that program, but getting that outside influence is very beneficial.

Mrs. Nota-Masse:

The goal is that all students participate in this. We need to manage our staffing levels as well as our capacity to have students take these courses and again manage all of the other requirements that have been mounting on high school students in public schools in Rhode Island. Right now this program is in its infancy; but she would like to see it spread; I do have a plan. This also could live in Math classes with the right strategy.

Mr. Bloom noted that there are a lot of skills in this report which don't really fit in a Math class. Budgeting is a separate skill; it's a completely different skill. However, some of these issues that we are touching on; being able to go into a grocery store and quantify certain things; that's math. It has a financial component to it so just by improving Math or working on innumerous is actually more of a problem in the United States than Literacy. A discussion ensued.

**Joseph Balducci – September Monthly Review of Year-to-Date
Revenues/Expenditures**

(See Report on file in the Superintendent's Office)

At this time, Mr. Balducci reviewed the September Monthly Year-to-Date Revenues and Expenditures, noting the following:

- Mr. Balducci informed the committee regarding the projected deficit in Special Education Tuitions.**
- Ms. Iannazzi asked that Mr. Balducci send a very detailed memo immediately to Bob Strom, the Mayor and City Council President detailing the projected deficit in that line item and also give as much student information as he can; not their placements but that we've seen an increase in this amount of students which result in this issue.**
- Mr. Balducci noted also that there is a City reserve account for \$270,000 so again, he will see to it that he has a conversation with Mr. Strom along with a memo regarding this issue.**
- He reported that he discussed this situation with Mrs. Coogan; they've identified 13 students that are new; were not budgeted for; were not identified as what we like to call it "Pending List"; something that was on our radar screen and it would be just a matter of time when that student was going to hit (so to speak). We've identified 13 of those students at almost \$700,000. From our standpoint there has been constant communication and monitoring of this area because we know from one year to the next, it could swing. A discussion ensued. This is a very difficult area to budget and monitor.**
- Mr. Lombardi asked at what point is there predictability to the accuracy of this number. Mrs. Coogan reported that it is very hard to say. This is back to July 1 until this week...we've had 8 move-ins**

which she explained the process and the different circumstances that caused this deficit.

- Mr. Balducci reported, other than that area, everything else seems to be on target at this point of the fiscal year. If there are any questions, Mr. Balducci will answer them; however, he will also take the instruction to prepare the memo and take it right over to the City.
- Mr. Bloom asked about the Vocational Tuitions – Mr. Balducci noted that he used the October 1 enrollment for that equation for the district. We are not going to receive the official October 1 data for a couple of weeks. At the November School Committee meeting he will have the district tuition rates, which include the Vocational School and at that point, once approved by the committee, his office will then send out the bills. A discussion ensued regarding the out-of-district budget.
- Mr. Traficante asked if there was any communication with the town of Johnston because that's where we lost our revenue last year. Dr. Lundsten answered that she will try and set up a meeting with Johnston.

Transportation Sub-Committee Report (LINK)

(This report is on-line cpsed.net and also on file in the Superintendent's office)

Mr. Lombardi asked Mr. Votto if he could let us know what the Transportation Sub-committee reported out.

Mr. Votto reported: We met as a group with a lot of discussion going

back and forth in particular with the union perspective as well as from the school committee's perspective. I suggested that they move the question and the resolution and based upon, not a recommendation of the sub-committee, but to move it to the next level which was take the sub-committee report, have a minority report by the union, which they delivered after the fact; and to present it to you folks. It left the committee without a recommendation but it did leave the committee with a vote of the entire group except the union representatives to have it come to the School Committee. We got a minority report from Mr. Jordan.

Mr. Bloom:

This is not the venue or the time to have a full discussion on the report; it was adopted on the 27th; the majority opinion and issued on the first but based upon the way this process is proceeded in terms of the amount of time it has taken just to get here; I would like to see us at least start the process so that we can begin to gather information and be in a position to make a decision about what to do as soon as possible.

Mrs. Ruggieri added that her version of starting the process is a little different. Mrs. Ruggieri believes that they should start the process by looking at the report and then looking at the dissenting report and then, looking at the dissenting reporting of the dissenting report, which we are hopeful that all the dissenting reports are done at this time. In order to determine if the information is valid and if what was

done was done with the way that the committee was set up to do its job. This would be the first step in the process reported Mrs. Ruggieri.

Mrs. Culhane added that in reviewing all the information, the committee did a great job putting numbers together and working together; having that many people with different schedules is very difficult to bring them all together. In regards to reading all three documents, the end result is either going to be negotiating with the union and/or subsequently putting out an RFP. Many of the numbers in this document are two years old. We're trying to frame out a 10 year outlook. I don't want to be looking at assumptions; which the word "assumption" is in the report. And, she doesn't want to be looking at numbers that are two years old. She noted that rather than talking about these three documents, the discussion needs to be, "are we going to sit down and open up the contract with the union and/or simultaneously go for an RFP?" It's good work and it's great that it's there but I don't see what the point is in discussing this.

Mr. Lombardi stated that having been on the subcommittee, he thinks that there is a lot of information here; there's a lot of information that came from Joe and Steve and then a report was generated; there was a dissenting report and the rebuttal to the dissenting report. There's a lot of information. The most reasonable thing to do is not to take up this task at 8:20 and try and decide what we're going to do. I think we should have a work session devoted specifically to this issue to

discuss those numbers. Then go forward. You attack it on both counts; at that point we can then negotiate in good faith with our unions and at the same time explore an RFP; what that RFP shows in more modern terms.

Mrs. Ruggieri

Because I've been involved in this for a while as far as being on the negotiating team with the union and then moving forward; and I kept a lot of the information from the first time around; when I went back and looked at the information, the questions that were brought up the first time around have still not been answered and I just feel that if we want to move forward, then we need to address those issues and we need to be able to say, "yes this is what this is and this is why" vs. "why is this happening?" and two years later, "why is this still happening this way?" What she didn't like about this report were the assumptions; there were a lot of assumptions; there were estimates; and she actually spoke to Mr. Balducci earlier because one of the things that she noticed was in some of the figures that were on there, you're still using the word estimate, when our actual budget numbers have been adopted in those first years, 10-11/11-12. The numbers that were used for the estimate in most of the cases regarding maintenance, etc., the estimates were higher than our actual numbers. So we're presenting estimates on figures that we have the actual figures on; and our estimates are higher therefore our costs look like they're higher. How are we projecting if we're not even using the real numbers? Mrs. Ruggieri reiterated that she thinks that

the committee needs to look at this report because these are figures and things are going to be driving the RFP and driving our negotiations that we need to have a real understanding of what these numbers mean. We need to look at them and we need to say, "Are we comparing the right things and are we looking at the same"?

Mr. Bloom noted that everything he is hearing right now is an argument to start this process. The committee sifted through a lot of information to prepare a report and the criticisms that you just leveled are all correct. The RFP; the low bidder, is two years old. We don't have actual data on what purchasing used buses are going to cost. We don't know what they are going to cost. We have a letter that's now 18 months old based upon what we think they might be; inventory changes; it's fluid. What we do have is a framework now for addressing the question. We have the framework from which criticisms can be leveled and the costing can be evaluated but what it means is that we have to start the process. Using data that is two years old isn't going to help us make a decision. What is going to help us make a decision is filling in all that data with real data; data from an RFP; data from the bargaining groups; data from buses that we could purchase in a certain time frame. Waiting for a work session to discuss all of this doesn't bring us any closer. We have to start filling in the data so we can make a decision. That data is opening up negotiations and beginning the process of going out and having an RFP. When this was started two years ago, it was in October; it took us 5-6 months before we started to have hearings. I

think we owe it to the City; to the students riding on buses that are 15 years old, to start the process.

Mrs. Culhane noted that at that time, we were also talking custodian contract and we were talking budget; so there was a lot of things going on and we're seven people that only have so much time to meet. A discussion ensued in regards to the committee meetings' process. Mrs. Culhane noted that by having that work session, we at least can come up with a list of questions and a list of priorities from that rather than just jumping right into this RFP process. We have a contract that's good until June and I don't understand why we need to be talking so fervently right now; the report is done; let's come up with questions; let's come up with the priorities that we have and then take it from there. A lengthy discussion regarding time frames of purchasing buses ensued.

Mrs. Ruggieri stated that she had a problem last year when they were beginning the negotiations with the bus drivers' contract. A little bit more time was asked so that the committee could come up with something and they agreed to give a little more time; losing savings in that process. When it came back again, there was still nothing forthcoming. A lengthy discussion occurred in reference to this process. Also discussed was the report and how long it took the committee to get this to the School Committee.

It was discussed that having a work session, separately, just for this

matter, would be a good tool. Mr. Lombardi also noted that he agrees with Mr. Bloom in the sense that the resolution does read, “That this is the best data available”, it doesn’t say it’s the accurate data; but the best data available for the time being. Mr. Lombardi noted that if we delve into this report and the questions regarding this report, in a work session; then schedule an Action Plan for the School Committee meeting. Nothing can come out of the work session anyway; we’re just wrapping here. We have a scheduled November meeting where we can put it on the agenda for November to discuss an Action Plan going forward, no matter what it means.

At this time, the following date, time and place was confirmed with all:

Monday, October 29, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Western Hills Middle School Library

Work Session only

Mr. Balducci also asked the committee that if there are any detail questions off of the analysis given that he was the author of; if the member could forward those to his attention prior to the October 29th meeting to give him some additional time to provide the answers that evening.

Mr. Traficante and Ms. Iannazzi have and will recuse themselves from this discussion and topic. Ms. Iannazzi also asked that the minutes are not sent to her from this October 29th meeting.

Adjourn Public Work Session to Public Meeting

Ms. Iannazzi reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Executive Session Minutes Sealed – October 10, 2012 – A motion to seal the minutes of the October 10, 2012 Executive Session was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mr. Bloom; the roll was called. It was carried unanimously.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lombardi, seconded by Mrs. Ruggieri. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank S. Lombardi

School Committee Clerk